

## First Record of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, *Macropus giganteus*, at Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, North-western Victoria

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In Victoria, the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, *Macropus giganteus*, and the Western Grey Kangaroo, *Macropus fuliginosus*, occur in a band of sympatry which arcs from south-west Victoria through Central Victoria to the north-west of the state (Coulson and Hutchinson 1983; Cauhley *et al.* 1984). This band is narrow in the south-west and central Victoria but becomes wider in the north-west where it continues into N.S.W. There, the overlap between the two species is more extensive and both occur throughout much of the western half of the state (Cauhley *et al.* 1984).

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, in north-western Victoria, lies on the border of the two states. The Western Grey Kangaroo has long been known to occur in the park, together with a small population of Red Kangaroos, *M. rufus* (Coulson 1988). A culling program has been undertaken in an experimental area of the park to encourage regeneration of plant communities that have been threatened by the heavy grazing pressure exerted by the kangaroos (Department of Conservation and Environment, undated). The park now carries a population of 26,000 Western Grey Kangaroos (Morgan 1991).

Although Caughley *et al.* (1984) reported the occurrence of both Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos on the New South Wales side of the Murray River between Mildura and Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, there have been no reliable records of the former species in the park. This note reports the first unequivocal sighting of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.

During a reconnaissance of the park on

23 June 1991, the authors observed two Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the vicinity of Lake Bitterang (34°40'S, 142°22'E), roughly in the centre of the park. They were observed between 1230 and 1300 hours in good light conditions. The first individual, an adult male, was sighted from a distance of about 250 m in grassland 1 km north of Lake Bitterang. He was observed briefly with 7x50 binoculars and a 22x spotting scope before he fled with a group of eight Western Grey Kangaroos into Black Box, *Eucalyptus largiflorans*, woodland to the north. The second individual was sighted shortly after the first in grassland adjacent to Red Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, woodland, some 500 m north of the lake. This individual was smaller, but its sex could not be determined. It was viewed with binoculars and telescope from less than 100 m for about 5 minutes as it stayed some 20 m from a group of Kangaroos. It then hopped towards, but did not join, another group of Western Grey Kangaroos near the woodland.

Our attention was initially drawn to the two Eastern Grey Kangaroos by the overall caramel coloration of their pelage, which was noticeably paler than the typical chocolate-brown of the Western Grey Kangaroos in the area. The diagnosis was confirmed by the characteristic pale face of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, as described and illustrated by Kirsch and Poole (1972) and Caughley *et al.* (1984).

The occurrence of Eastern Grey Kangaroos at this site is noteworthy because they were observed near a transect line where one of us (GC) had made thousands of sightings of only Western Grey Kangaroos while conducting population and movement studies between 1983 and 1986 (Coulson and Norbury 1988). Further surveys will be needed to

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determine whether the sightings reported here represent no more than a couple of transient individuals, or whether there is now a resident population of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. The possibility of a third species in the park should be considered in future monitoring and management of the kangaroo populations.



## References

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## Notes from the National Herbarium of Victoria No. 11 Authorities in Plant Nomenclature

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*This is the third in a small series of articles dealing with aspects of botanical nomenclature that began in The Victorian Naturalists, vol. 108, no. 5. An understanding of the contents of the previous articles has been assumed.*

In botanical texts and in papers published in journals, the scientific names of plants are often followed by the (abbreviated) names of the botanists responsible for coining them. These abbreviated names are called authorities.

In the following examples, the authorities given are those for the names of species, i.e., the authors concerned coined the specific epithets and used each in conjunction with a particular genus.

This type of authority is the most commonly encountered, however, botanical names at all ranks, once formally published, have authorities. Numbers 1, 3 and 4 are taken from the journal *Muelleria* 7, no. 2, published by the National Herbarium of Victoria.

1. *Pomaderris oblongifolia* N. G. Walsh  
'N. G. Walsh' is the authority for the combination *Pomaderris oblongifolia*, i.e., N. G. Walsh decided on the epithet *oblongifolia*, and used it when naming this new species of *Pomaderris*.

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